

This is an official

DHEC Health Update

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Ongoing Outbreak of *Salmonella* Typhimurium Infections: South Carolina Update & Healthcare Provider Guidance

Background Information

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) along with state and local health officials started investigating a cluster of *Salmonella* serotype Typhimurium isolates on November 25, 2008. As of January 29, 2009, 529 persons have been reported to have infections with the outbreak strain in 43 states. Based on initial case interviews and subsequent case-control studies conducted in January 2009, peanut butter containing products were found to be significantly associated with illness. All the peanut butter products implicated in the illnesses were manufactured by the Peanut Corporation of America (PCA) at a single plant in Blakely, GA. PCA has since voluntarily recalled all peanuts and peanut products produced at this facility since January 1, 2007.

This outbreak involves a strain of *Salmonella* possessing two closely related pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) patterns.

As of January 29th, there have been no reported cases of *Salmonella* Typhimurium in South Carolina matching the current outbreak strain. Surveillance for *Salmonella* Typhimurium is ongoing and SC DHEC is providing this Health Update to remind healthcare providers about the symptoms, appropriate testing and reporting guidelines related to *Salmonella* reporting in South Carolina.

Clinical Information about *Salmonella*

- Most persons infected with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12–72 hours after infection.
- Infection is usually diagnosed by culture of a stool specimen with the illness usually lasting 4 to 7 days.
- Although most people recover without treatment, severe infections may occur. Infants, elderly persons, and those with impaired immune systems are more likely than others to develop severe illness.
- When severe infection occurs, *Salmonella* may spread from the intestines to the bloodstream and then to other body sites and can cause death unless the person is treated promptly with antibiotics.

Follow-up Testing provided by the DHEC Bureau of Laboratories

- Once *Salmonella* has been identified in a patient specimen by his/her healthcare provider, DHEC Bureau of Laboratories will provide follow-up testing to determine if the case is part of an outbreak.

- As part of our routine disease surveillance, the DHEC Bureau of Laboratories performs both serotyping and Pulsed-field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE) testing on *Salmonella* isolates. This allows the classification of current strains present within South Carolina, along with matching to strains that are associated with national outbreaks.
- As per the current List of Reportable Conditions (available at: http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf), laboratories must submit isolates of *Salmonella* to the DHEC Bureau of Laboratories for serotyping".

Recommendations for Healthcare providers

- Providers are encouraged to test, via stool culture, patients presenting with symptoms consistent with *Salmonella*.
- In addition, a heightened awareness should be noted for patients who report recent consumption of peanut butter from items associated with the current list of recalled products (see link below to the FDA website for the current product list).
- As per the current List of Reportable Conditions, providers who receive a positive laboratory result indicating *Salmonella* are to report this result to SC DHEC (see below for a link to the 2009 List of Reportable Conditions) and submit an isolate to the DHEC Bureau of Laboratories for serotyping.

Sources for Additional Information

- A database containing all recalled products can be accessed on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website:
<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm>
- Recall information can also be obtained via phone at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)
- For more information on this outbreak investigation, a summary update is available on the CDC website. <http://cdc.gov/salmonella/typhimurium/>

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of *Salmonella* cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2009 List of Reportable Conditions available at: http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices – 2009

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

Region 1

Anderson, Oconee

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 260-4358
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda

1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

Greenville, Pickens

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Region 3

Chester, Lancaster, York

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

Region 3 (continued)

Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

Region 4

Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 775-9941
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Region 5

Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 533-7134
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Region 6

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg

1931 Industrial Park Road
Conway, SC 29526-5482
Phone: (843) 915-8804
Fax: (843) 365-0085
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 953-0060
Fax: (843) 953-0051
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper

219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 525-7603, x-108
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

DHEC Bureau of Disease Control

Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



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Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

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